Two Trucks Crash
On N.M. 4 Hill

BY MARK HUMMELS
Journal Staff Writer

Two large-haul trucks crashed through a highway guardrail, plunging 200 feet into a ravine west of the highway, killing three people on Tuesday afternoon, police said.

One driver, Eldridge B. Holguin, age 32, was killed in the crash. The other, who was not identified, was airlifted to University Hospital in Albuquerque and Los Alamos County Police Chief Mike Brooks.

He did not release the second driver's name because of the severity of his injuries were unknown Tuesday evening. There were no passengers in either truck, he said.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation. The two trucks were traveling on N.M. 4, going down a steep hill just before a harpoon was set, when they crashed through the guardrail near mile marker 9. The first report of the accident came about 12:40 p.m.

Both trucks were partially burned before Los Alamos County firefighters could extinguish the flames.

State Pen Escapade Recaptured Quickly

Helicopter Helps Track Fugitive

BY JANE HENDERSON
Journal Staff Writer

SANTA FE — An inmate who escaped from a supervised work detail at the state penitentiary Tuesday was quickly recaptured after a helicopter pursuit.

Michael Tinkham, 34, was picked up by an accomplice in an old Ford pickup truck around 9 a.m. outside the prison near Santa Fe, Corrections Department officials said. However, officers at a State Police helicopter spotted the pickup and followed it. They directed officers on the ground to an underveloped area behind the Santa Fe Radisson Hotel.

Tinkham and the accomplice identified as Jennifer Garcia, were arrested by State Police.

Tinkham had been serving a 10-year sentence for armed robbery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was convicted in Santa Fe in 1989.

State Penitentiary

BY JUAN MORALES
Journal Staff Writer

A New Mexico State Police captain Tuesday admitted in participating in the March 1996 El Paso police officer's death, knowing that he didn't reside within that state's jurisdiction.

El Paso County Judge Jim Hall accepted the plea Tuesday and suspended a nearly two-year prison term against Maes. Instead, he placed him on unsupervised probation for 728 days.

Hall also ordered the 31-year-old State Police veteran to perform 200 hours of community service and pay a monthly probation fee to be determined by the probation department.

Maes was one of 13 people indicted last June by a Round Rock County grand jury for alleged voter fraud in El Paso. Maes was indicted on felony charges of ineligible absentee voting, false statement in absentee voting, false swearing, conspiracy to violate multiple election code and falsifying information on a certificate of registration to be used by the indictment.

In the plea agreement, Maes pleaded guilty to one count each of attempted ineligible absentee voting and attempted falsifying information on a certificate of registration.

Assistant Attorney General Richard Klein told Hall that Maes was shot after registering as an El Paso resident.

Maes, who lived in his home address as the state Police headquarters in El Paso.

Man Held in Death Of Mother-In-Law

BY JUAN MORALES
Journal Staff Writer

Police believe a Raton man strangled his mother-in-law at their Raton home, then fled south before being picked up Saturday morning by State Police near Las Cruces.

An arrest warrant issued Tuesday charges Augustine Granado, 24, a construction worker, with first-degree murder in connection with the strangling death of Laura Sepich. She lived with Granado and her wife, Sepich's daughter, in Raton.

Mares said:

We don't have a motive at this time.

Sepich was found strangled to death at home early Saturday morning. Police issued a statewide alert to look for Granado and his car was driving away, a 1996 Chevrolet Lumina that belonged to Sepich.

State Police in the Las Cruces dis-